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sent only the more important acts of legislation with sufficient details to make them intelligible.

From the compilation as a whole it appears that the subject receiving chief notice in 1895 were the regulation of mines and factories, industrial arbitration and conciliation, and various plans of more or less socialistic tendency. In the last class appeared projects for workmen's insurance in France, Belgium, England and Italy. The Prussian Landtag voted five million marks to be used in building workmen's houses or to be lent to workmen for that purpose. In Belgium the legislature considered a proposal for fixing a legal minimum of wages, and in other respects similarly regulating the employment of workmen in the service of the state. Three bills in the German Reichstag have had the rather startling object of discouraging the growth of co-operative stores out of regard for the small trader who is said to be hard-pressed by their competition.

Another pamphlet of the same series of *Documents Sociologiques* describes the infinite variety of projects for industrial arbitration and conciliation which have recently been considered in English and continental Parliaments.

M. Lambrechts presents once more patriotically but erroneously the common statement that industrial courts of arbitration and conciliation originated in the French Prud'hommes, being copied from this throughout the world. He makes an exception of England but with a proper reference to German industrial history from the Middle Ages to the present, he would have excepted also the greater part of continental Europe.

In the presentation of projects for arbitration and conciliation the errors of the compilation first spoken of above have been avoided and a student of this subject will find the pamphlet valuable.

A. P. W.

The Province of Quebec and the Early American Revolution. A Study in English-American Colonial History. By VICTOR COFFIN, Madison, Wisconsin: Published by the University of Wisconsin. 1896. 8vo. pp. xvii+287.

THIS study in English-American colonial history deals with the Province of Quebec, from its acquisition by England in 1760 down into the American Revolution. It divides itself broadly into two parts,

the first, institutional, dealing with the system of government and administration; the second, historical, presenting the connections of Canada with the Revolution. On both sides the Quebec Act of 1774 becomes the central point. In investigating the institutional side Dr. Coffin has kept constantly before him the problem peculiar to Quebec, that, namely, of the grafting of English governmental ideas on an alien society. He has, moreover, not considered exclusively the letter of the constitution, but its spirit; not the machinery of government alone, but the forces working through it. In describing the character of the administrators and people he has added animation to the subject, and has been enabled to present, in truer form, the conditions which led to the Act and the state of government it was intended to amend. Many old and prevailing opinions have been viewed in the light of evidence hitherto undisclosed, and not a few have been found wanting. This is, perhaps, the characteristic feature of the work; positions which for years have been taken for granted or as established have, when subjected to a rigid and careful examination, been thrown aside as no longer tenable. Others, heretofore more or less uncertain, have been placed on a more stable basis.

The earlier chapters outline the character and nature of the French Canadians and the British settlers. The political attitude of each is discussed, and also the relations existing between them. The government under the Royal Proclamation of 1763 is examined, and, in the light of Lord Mansfield's judgment,¹ the exact constitutional status of the province is set forth. The provincial legislation throughout the period 1763-4 is held to be *in toto* null and void, though the validity of that legislation remained unchallenged both in the colony and in England. As to the status of the English civil law it is maintained that the general and vague expressions of the proclamation could not be taken as adequate to the overturning in the whole or part of the ancient system of civil law and the express introduction of English law, either common or statute. The general administration, the judiciary, the civil service, and the finances are dealt with in the order named.

The major part of the work is devoted to a careful study of the Act itself. Dr. Coffin strongly combats the belief held by many that it was "a *chef-d'oeuvre* of political wisdom and humanity;" he expresses as his conviction that it was in reality one of the most unwise

¹ Case of Campbell *vs.* Hall, 1774. Cowper's and Lofft's *Reports*.

and disastrous measures in English colonial history. His conclusions seem justified by the evidence presented. The origin and aims of the Act are carefully analyzed and discussed in detail under the history of its main provisions. The enlarged boundaries set out are shown to have been determined in pursuance of the general commercial or colonial system of Great Britain at the time, and not to have been affected by conditions in the other colonies or dictated by hostility to their growth and liberties. The policy itself was caused neither by the acquisition of Canada, nor by the colonial troubles of the seventies: it was in operation before either, and its continuity is traceable through both. In the measures relating to the Roman Catholic church in Canada, it is pointed out that the home government was influenced mainly or solely by the necessity of maintaining its treaty obligations; it is further stated as questionable whether the proposition of the church was really much improved by the enactment. By the establishment of the French civil law, the writer contends that only so much of the old law was to be maintained as could in any way be held as essentially bound up with the securing to the French Canadians that full enjoyment of their property which had been promised in the capitulation and treaty. It is also urged that there was a sincere intention to bring in English law through subsequent provincial enactment. The withholding of an assembly is placed on the ground that there would have been danger in allowing full weight to the overwhelming French Catholic majority, and, on the other hand, difficulty in making a Protestant assembly palatable to that majority; it would have been unjust to exclude the French Roman Catholics from it, yet it would have been unsafe to have admitted them. The action taken is regarded as a shelving of the difficult subject, and the Act, it is urged, "*deferred*" rather than "*denied*" an assembly. From an examination of the application of the Act it is concluded that in the first stage of its life it had no defense from the standpoint of good government in the province.

Dr. Coffin's investigation of the special influence of the Quebec Act on the early revolutionary struggle and the attitude of the Canadians toward that event is full of interesting research. His conclusions are important, though somewhat at variance with hitherto prevailing opinions. He maintains that the provisions of the Quebec Act were neither occasioned nor appreciably affected by conditions in the other colonies; and that far from being effectual in keeping the mass

of the Canadians loyal to the British connection, the measure had a strong influence in precisely the opposite direction. Canada, he says, was preserved at this crisis to the British Empire through the vigor and ability of its British defenders and through the mismanagement of their cause on the part of the revolutionists.

In the final chapter the conclusions of historical interest are summarized, and the more important effects of the Act on the after history of British North America traced to the present day. It is in this examination of the political wisdom of the Act that the strongest condemnation is pronounced. To the influence of its policy are accredited the obstacles presented to Anglo-Saxon domination and to political unity in Canada, a policy described as having admitted of a "continued and magnified existence of an alien and hostile nationality, rooted in and bound up with an alien and hostile ecclesiastical domination." An alternative course might, Dr. Coffin suggests, have been pursued, and the English province set definitely upon an *English* instead of a *French* path of development. By the Act of 1774, he maintains, the British government avowedly handed over the province to a French future.

The significance of this work may be judged from the importance of the conclusions reached. The opportuneness of so minute an historical investigation is apparent from its bearing on past and present political conditions. For it is strongly urged that the great difficulties which have beset English rule in Canada, as well as the grave problems that still confront the Dominion, are a natural and logical development from the policy of the Quebec Act. It might not be amiss to point out in this connection that the problem as here stated and in so far as it may still exist, has never shown more favorable signs of solution than at the present day. On the month of publication of the work under review the province of Quebec spoke with no uncertain voice. Its decision on the Manitoba school question—distinctively a religious question—may justly be regarded as a protest against the charge of "hostile ecclesiastical domination." That province, moreover, has given to the Dominion of Canada a premier whose personality promises much. A French-Canadian, and a Roman Catholic by birth and early training, Hon. Wilfred Laurier is above all truly British in thought and feeling. Under such a leader religious intolerance and racial animosities will lose much of their bitterness and gradually be submerged in the broader questions of general national interest.

Aside from its bearing on the practical questions of the day, Dr. Coffin's book is of considerable interest to Canadians and Americans alike. It is a valuable addition to the constitutional history of Canada and a no less valuable contribution to the period of American revolutionary history.

W. L. MACKENZIE KING.